

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 02162 270946Z

14

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 DOTE-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SY-10 USSS-00

SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 DRC-01 /081 W

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R 261219Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7165

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 2162

E.O. 11652: GDS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE

TAGS: EAID, ETRN

SUBJ: CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY

REF: A. STATE 68534; B. KHARTOUM 1164

1. RESPONSE. ABDUL BAGI CHRMN SUDAN AIRWAYS, HAS INFORMED DCM THAT GOS AND SUDAN AIR WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY SURVEY AS PROPOSED REFTEL A. SUDAN AIR BELIEVES THAT ALL SECTORS NOTED PARA 2 REFTEL A NEED IMPROVEMENT. SUDAN AIR ALREADY RECEIVING SOME SECURITY TRAINING AND COOPERATION FROM ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES. SUDAN AIR HOPES USG SURVEY COULD BE INITIATED AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. IN RESPONSE SPECIFIC QUESTION, ABDUL BAGI STATED HIS APPROACH HAD POSITIVE BACKING MFA UNDERSEC FADL OBEID TO WHOM EMB MADE INITIAL APPROACH (REFTEL B). (FADL OBEI SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED TO DCM THAT SUDAN AIR RESPONSE HAS GOS BACKING. GOS, HOWEVER, HAS HANDLED MATTER INTERNALLY ON ORAL BASIS ONLY).

2. ABDUL BAGI SAID THAT CURRENT EXPRESSION OF SUDANESE INTEREST IN SURVEY STEMS IN PART FROM RECENT FORMATION OF SECRET GOS AVIATION SECURITY COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM ARMY, INTERIOR, DEFENSE AND SUDAN AIR. HE ORIGINALLY SOUGHT COMMITTEE'S APPROVAL FOR A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO USG IN MID-AUGUST, BUT WAS FORESTALLED BY POLITICAL DISTURBANCES WHICH OCCUPIED COMMITTEE'S ENERGIES ELSEWHERE.

SECRET

PAGE 02 KHARTO 02162 270946Z

MITTEE'S ENERGIES ELSEWHERE.

3. CAUSE OF DELAY. DELAY IN GOS RESPONSE ATTRIBUTABLE IN LARGE MEASURE TO INEFFICIENCY GOS BUREAUCRACY, BUT THERE WAS ALSO ELEMENT OF RELUCTANCE IN SOME QUARTERS TO BE TOO CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH USG IN AVIATION SECURITY BECAUSE OF POLITICAL LIABILITY IN ARAB EYES SHOULD ASSISTANCE BECOME KNOWN. GOS AND SUDAN AIR NOW WILLING

PROCEED, BUT STRESS THAT COOPERATION AND SURVEY MUST BE HELD CONFIDENTIAL. SHOULD QUESTION DEVELOP, SUDAN AIR WOULD INTEND ADOPT PUBLIC LINE THAT AMERICAN OFFICIALS ARE VISITING SUDAN IN CONNECTION CERTIFICATION AND OTHER TECHNICALITIES CONCERNING RECENTLY-ORDERED BOEING 707'S.

4. EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING. ABDUL BAGI IMPLIED SURVEY WAS INITIAL STEP AND AVIATION SECURITY CTTEE EXPECTED US EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING WOULD FOLLOW. DCM NOTED THAT CURRENT USG OFFER DID NOT INCLUDE EQUIPMENT OR TRAINING IN ANY FASHION, BUT LIMITED TO SURVEY ONLY. ABDUL BAGI NOTED POINT, BUT OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERS THAT ONCE SURVEY IS COMPLETED, MOMENTUM FOR EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING WILL FOLLOW.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EMB ASSUMES USG OFFER STILL VALID. EMB ACCORDINGLY REQUESTS CONFIRMATION DOT/FAA TEAM AVAILABLE AND PROPOSALS FOR POSSIBLE TIMING OF VISIT. ONE MONTH RAMADAN FASTING PERIOD BEGINS END SEPTEMBER, BUT ABDUL BAGI STATES IT WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH EITHER SUDAN AIR COURTESIES OR COOPERATION WITH USG SURVEY TEAM.

BREWER

SECRET

NNN

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